

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG SA SU
SUBJ: FAHMY AND GAMASY ON SUDAN

1. NOT SURPRISINGLY, DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY LAST EVENING IN ALEXANDRIA, THE SUDAN WAS MUCH ON HIS MIND. HE DESCRIBED NUMAYRI AS STILL WEAK AND ERRATIC. ALTHOUGH THE RECENT REBELLION WAS CRUSHED, THERE CONTINUE TO BE DISSIDENT ELEMENTS ALL OVER THE SUDAN AND ESPECIALLY IN THE WEST. LIBYA IS STILL SENDING PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT IN THROUGH THE UWAYNAT AREA. ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, FOUR TRUCK LOADS OF PEOPLE COMING FROM LIBYA HAD BEEN SPOTTED BY EGYPTIAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT AND THE SUDANESE WARNED IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEM. MOREOVER, DESPITE ALL EFFORTS FIND IT, THE REBEL RADIO TRANSMITTER IN OMDARMAN HAS NOT YET BEEN LOCATED.

2. GOE HAD SIGNED A DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE SUDAN ON JULY 15, WHICH OBLIGATES IT TO COME TO NUMAYRI'S ASSISTANCE IF THREATENED. IN SOMEWHAT WAVERING FASHION, NUMAYRI HAD BEEN TRYING OBTAIN SUCH AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PAST YEAR AND ONE-HALF. SADDAT WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT, BUT FELT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT
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TO DO SO. IN EFFECT, EGYPT NOW ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY

FOR THE SUDAN'S DEFENSE AND THE SUDAN BECOMES LITTLE MORE THAN AN EGYPTIAN PROTECTED STATE. THESE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WORRY GOE GREATLY, SINCE IT LACKS THE RESOURCES --- ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF MOBILITY -- TO COVER SUCH BROAD AREAS. HE ASKED IF USG COULD LEND GOE TEN C-130'S UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THOSE ORDERED BY EGYPT ARRIVE. THESE AIRCRAFT NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH SUDAN DEFENSE. AS IF LIBYA WERE NOT ENOUGH, FAHMY SNORTED, EGYPT MUST NOW ALSO LOOK AFTER THE SUDAN.

3. FAMY CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS, FOUR DAYS AFTER THE REBELLION HAD BEEN PUT DOWN, HAD SENT 30 MIG ENGINES TO NUMAYRI TO SHOW THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THE REBELLION. IN CONTRAST , THE USG HAD DONE NOTHING. NUMAYRI CAME BACK FROM THE US PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED, BUT WITH NOTHING IN HAND. PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT HAD BEEN HELPFUL, BUT LATE. WHEN I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE HOPE TO SEND AN AID REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SUDAN TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES, FAHMY ARGUED THAT USG SHOULD PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS IN ASSISTING NUMAYRI. THERE MUST BE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IF HIS POPULARITY IS TO BE ENHANCED. EGYPT LACKS THE MEANS TO DO SO. THE SAUDIS WILL GIVE SOME ECONOMIC HELP, BUT ARE MIFFED THAT NUMAYRI FAILED TO USE EARLIER SAUDI ECONOMIC AID AS HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. BUT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

4. SPEAKING IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, FAHMY SAID A MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF EGYPT, SUDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WILL TAKE PLACE IN KHARTOUM ON JULY 26. IT WILL ALSO BE ATTENDED BY THE CHIEFS OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES OF THE THREE COUNTRIES. ITS PURPOSE WILL BE TO DRAW UP A VIABLE PLAN TO BOLSTER NUMAYRI'S MILITARY POSITION.

5. SINCE WRITING ABOVE, I HAVE BEEN TO SEE GAMASY WHO ALSO HAD THE SUDAN VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND. HE DESCRIBED NEW EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE DEFENSE TREATY IN LESS ALL-ENBRACING TERMS THAN DID FAHMY, NOTING ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO ASSIST SUDAN TO DEFEND ITSELF. HE WAS QUITE SOMBER ABOUT HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE, BUT
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GOOD PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER THAT HE IS, SAID HE HAD ALREADY BEGUN PLANNING. HE TOO, ASKED WHAT KIND OF HELP SUDAN MIGHT EXPECT FROM USG. ALL I COULD TELL HIM WAS THAT AID REP IS EXPECTED TO VISIT SUDAN LATER THIS MONTH TO SURVEY ECONOMIC NEEDS. I TOLD HIM, AS I HAD TOLD FAHMY, THAT IN MY PERSONAL JUDGEMENT GOE SHOULD NOT EXPECT VAST AMOUNTS OF US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT IN THE CARDS THESE DAYS.

GAMASY SAID THIS HAS BEEN HIS SURMISE, BUT NOTED
SADAT AND FAHMY STILL HOPE USG WILL GIVE GENEROUS
ASSISTANCE.
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